

Michael F. Easley
Governor



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Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY HAILS GAINS ON NATIONAL WRITING EXAM FOR NORTH CAROLINA
North Carolina Students Soar Above Other States

RALEIGH—The National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) today released the scores of the 2002 writing exam for fourth and eighth-graders, the only two grades that are tested nationally. North Carolina students scored above national average and lead the Southeast.

Only three states performed significantly better than North Carolina. North Carolina's fourth-graders had an average score of 159, while the national average was 153. North Carolina's eighth-graders increased their score by seven points since 1998, from 150 to 157. The national average gain since 1998 was four points.

"I am very pleased to see our students performing at high levels on these exams," said Easley. "NAEP is the only true state-to-state comparison we have for student achievement and this shows that our students are competitive in the Southeast and across the nation. As with reading scores last month, these writing scores show that our investments in education are paying off. If we continue to make education a top priority and hold to high standards, then we will help all children achieve at high levels."

Last month, Easley announced that North Carolina's students performed above the southeastern and national averages on the 2002 NAEP reading exam. North Carolina students made more progress than the nation.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is the only national and continuous assessment of student knowledge in core subject areas.

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